Appl. No. 10/617,492
Amdt. dated August 30, 2007
Reply to Office action of May 31, 2007

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action of May 31, 2007. The due date for response extends to August 31, 2007.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitation in the original claim 2 and claim 2 is cancelled. Claim 3 is amended so that it depends from claim 1. Claims 4-14 are not amended. No new matter is introduced.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's prompt indication that claims 7-14 are allowable and claims 3-6 define allowable subject matters. Applicant's response to the issues raised in the Office Action are set forth in the following discussion.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C.§101

Claims 1, now amended, and 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matters. This rejection is respectfully traversed.
Applicant has amended claim 1 to distinctively point out the practical application and concrete output of the claimed process. Claim 1 is now directed to "A compression encoding table recording method capable of reducing storage space by using a pseudo read-only memory, which is implemented in a recording environment comprising a logic circuit, a storage element, and the data values of the compression encoding table being~are~ repeating or increasing".

The claimed process saves the storage space needed for a compression encoding table to occupy in a storage element by storing in the storage element only the non-repeating or non-increasing data values whereas the repeating and increasing data values are calculated rather than stored. In other words, instead of storing the entire compression encoding table in a storage element like those done by conventional technology, the claimed process stores only part of the compression encoding table in the storage element and calculates the other part of the compression encoding table, hence the name - pseudo read-only memory, where some data values are calculated and some data values are stored. Therefore, the claimed process does have practical application with concrete output, and so claim 1 as amended is a statutory subject matter. Claims 3-6, which depend from claim 1, are also statutory subject matter.

In view of the forgoing amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C.§112

Claims 1, now amended, and 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§112 as being indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clearly describe that the compression encoding table is divided into a plurality of blocks according to the attribute of the data values. Hence, claim 1 as amended is definite, and claims 3-6, which depend from claim 1, are therefore definite.

In view of the forgoing amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C.§102

Claim 1, now amended, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C.§102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. 6,351,570). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The examiner states that in Kobayashi, the compression encoding table is divided into a plurality of blocks based on binary repeating data values (Fig. 21 and Fig. 22) and the binary values are calculated by a logic circuit (Fig. 23). However, the calculation process of Kobayashi, which the Examiner has equated to the calculating step of the claimed invention, does not perform the same function as and is substantially different from the calculating step of the claimed invention.

Kobayashi uses two tables, namely primary decoding table 2100, which contains data values on the following fields: run length 2101, evaluation bit pattern length 2102, and offset 2103, and secondary decoding table 2104, which contains data values on the following fields: address 2105 and decode value 2106, to obtain a decode value for a variable length code extracted from a code sequence.

First, the run length of the variable length code is determined by counting the number of "0" in the run and then it is used to search through the run length field of the primary decoding table 2100 for a corresponding evaluation bit pattern length 2102 and a corresponding offset 2103. Next, the run length 2101 and the corresponding evaluation bit pattern length 2102 are used to determine the evaluation bit pattern of the variable length code by adding a constant 1 to the run length 2101 and confirming the head bit of the evaluation bit pattern. Last, the secondary decoding table 2104 is searched using an address composed of the evaluation bit pattern and the corresponding offset 2103 to obtain a decode value 2106 for the variable length code (FIG. 23; Column 14, lines 54-67).

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Besides counting the number of zeros for determining a run length, the mere calculation Kobayashi did is adding "one" to the run length for finding out the head bit of an evaluation bit pattern, whereby both the run length and the head bit are used as aids to search the decoding tables for the decode values, not to calculate the decode values. In other words, Kobayashi discloses a method for fast searching decode values of variable length codes by using two stored decoding tables, the primary decoding table 2100 containing address information while the secondary decoding table containing decode values for all variable length codes.

On the contrary, the claimed invention calculates the repeating or increasing data values of the compression encoding table, not searching a stored table for these data values. In fact, a stored table containing all data values like the decoding tables Kobayashi has takes up an enormous storage space, and that is the problem solved by the claimed invention by eliminating such table to be stored so as to reduce storage space required by a compression encoding table. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the Kobayashi reference does not disclose each and every feature specified in independent claim 1 as amended.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 as amended is patentable. Claims 3-6, which depend from independent claim 1, are surely patentable for at least the same reason set forth above regarding claim 1.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the step of storing non-repeating or non-increasing data values of the compression encoding table in a storage element, to emphasize that not all data values of the compression encoding table are stored, and thus the advantage of the claimed invention − reducing storage space occupied by the compression encoding table, is achieved. Kobayashi fails to point out whether the non-repeating or non-increasing data values are stored in a storage element because as aforementioned, all data values/decode values of Kobayashi are stored in the secondary decoding table 2104. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the Kobayashi reference does not disclose each and every feature specified in independent claim 1 as amended.
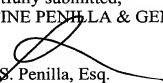
Accordingly, independent claim 1 as amended is patentable. Claims 3-6, which depend from independent claim 1, are surely patentable for at least the same reason set forth above regarding claim 1.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-14 and submits that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. JLINP162). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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